istic diseases and malgnancies involved in each individual case.

However, under the AIDS control programme a number of measures are being taken to prevent its further spread. These are:—

1. 11 diagnostic centres for detection of AIDS have been set up in the country. In addition, 4 referral centres have also been established where higher level diagnostic facilities for AIDS are available.
2. Restrictions have been imposed for import of blood and blood products without AIDS clearance certificate.
3. All the State Health authorities/hospitals/STD clinics have been alerted to look for AIDS.
4. All the blood banks have been instructed to screen the professional blood donors.
5. All the State Health authorilies have been advised to ensure strict sterilization practices in hospitals and clinics and to use pre-sterilised disposable syringes and needles as far as possible.
6. Guidelines have been sent to all the State Health authorities for health care personnel.
7. All the mass media channels have been involved in educating the people on AIDS, its nature, transmission and prevention.

Transmission of the AIDS virus

393. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any enquiry regarding the cases of transmission of the AIDS virus to the six women in Madras who have been declared seriopositive for its anti-bodies;

(b) whether it is a fact that contaminated needles are responsible for transmitting the AIDS virus;

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to improve the standard of sterlisation of needles in hospitals; and

(d) what suitable measures have been taken to make available sufficient quantity of disposable syringes and disposable needles in the hospitals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) It is a fact that contaminated needles can transmit the AIDS virus.

(c) and (d) All the State Health authorities have been advised to ensure strict sterilisation practices in hospitals and clinics and to use pre-sterilised disposable syringes and needles as far as possible, which are easily available in adequate quantities.

AIDS detection centres

394. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some particular areas have been affected by the AIDS disease in the country;

(b) if so, which are those areas in different States and what action has been taken to eradicate the disease;

(c) whether AIDS detection centres have been set up in various States and whether State Government of Andhra Pradesh have forwarded any proposal in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Yes. 18 cases of confirmed AIDS infection have been detected as under:—

Tamil Nadu	.. 15
Maharashtra	.. 2
Andhra Pradesh	.. 1

Out of these cases, 2 have developed AIDS disease and 1 devloped AIDS related complex.

A nationwide control programme has been initiated and the important steps under this programme taken so far for the prevention of the disease are:

(1) Restrictions have been imposed on import of blood and blood products without AIDS clearance certificate.

(2) All the state health authorities/hospitals/STD clinics have been alerted to look for AIDS.

(3) All the blood banks have been instructed to screen the professional blood donors.

(4) All the state health authorities have been advised to ensure strict sterilisation practices in hospitals and clinics and to use pre-sterilised disposable syringes and needles as far as possible.

(5) Guidelines have been sent to all the state health authorities for health care personnel.

(6) All the mass channels have been involved in educating the people on AIDS, its nature, transmission and prevention.

(c) and (d) At present 12 surveillance centres are functioning in different States. In addition, 4 referral centres for AIDS where sophisticated diagnostic facilities are available, have also been established. 17 more centres have been identified and are being established.

In Andhra Pradesh, 3 centres are being established, at Vishakhapatnam, Tirupati and Hyderabad. In addition to these centres, one laboratory is also being provided with screening kits.

Medicines for AIDS patients

395. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of AIDS patients detected so far in different parts of the country;

(b) what medicines have been made available to fight the disease; and

(c) what special measures have been taken to prevent the spread of the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) 18 cases of confirmed AIDS infection have been detected in the country so far.

(b) There is no specific medicine for AIDS cases so far. At present, the treatment of AIDS patients consists of specific treatment for varieties of opportunistic diseases and malignancies involved in each individual case.

(c) The following measures are being taken under the AIDS Control Programme to prevent its spread:-

1. Diagnostic centres for detection of AIDS have been set up. In addition, 4 referral centres have also been established where higher level diagnostic facilities for AIDS are available.

2. Restrictions have been imposed for import of blood and blood products without AIDS clearance certificate.

3. All the State health authorities/hospitals/STD clinics have been alerted to look for AIDS.

4. All the blood banks have been instructed to screen the professional blood donors.

5. All the State health authorities have been advised to ensure strict sterilization practices in hospitals and clinics and to use pre-sterilised disposable syringes and needles as far a possible.

6. Guidelines have been sent to all the State health authorities for health care personnel.

7. All the mass media channels have been involved in educating the people on AIDS, its nature, transmission and prevention.

Committees on private participation in road construction

396. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state: